

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, Sculptor John Gutzon de la Mothe Borglum, born of pioneer Danish stock in Ovid, Idaho, was invited by Doane Robinson, state historian of South Dakota, to design a mountain monument in 1924; and,

WHEREAS, In September 1924, Gutzon Borglum came to South Dakota to get the feel of the land inspecting the hills, and returned to South Dakota in 1925 riding on horseback through the Black Hills to find a mountain suitable for sculpting; and,

WHEREAS, President Calvin Coolidge dedicated the mountain of his choice, Mount Rushmore, as a national memorial in October 1925 and, on August 10, 1927, at age 60 years, began the monument with enthusiasm and vigor; and,

WHEREAS, Gutzon Borglum's dream was "Let us place there, carved high, as close to the heavens as we can, our leaders, their faces to show posterity what manner of men they were. Then I breath a prayer that these records will endure until the wind and rain alone shall wear them away;" and,

WHEREAS, From the first, Gutzon Borglum saw Mount Rushmore as a "Shrine of Democracy" commemorating the global and political achievements of the men of the country he loved, and his first step on climbing the mountain was to plant an American flag at the summit before work began; and,

WHEREAS, He molded local miners and roustabouts into master mountain carvers, doing everything he asked his men to do, and he was proud of his safety record--incurring not one serious casualty--perfecting a blasting technique using small amounts of dynamite for precision carving allowing him to blast rock within inches of the finished surface; and,

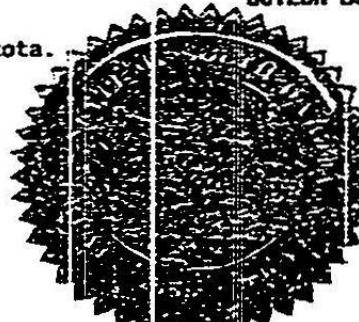
WHEREAS, Gutzon Borglum pursued the carving with determination against financial hardship and political adversity, and his efforts attracted international attention resulting in an incalculable contribution to South Dakota's stature and tourism industry; and,

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper as Governor to make special note of this patriotic American who wanted to leave a legacy to America and especially the people of the free world:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE S. MICKELSON, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim August 10, 1990, as

GUTZON BORGULM DAY

In South Dakota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-Sixth Day of June, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety.

GEORGE S. MICKELSON, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

JOYCE HAZELTINE, SECRETARY OF STATE